When he cut himself he'd get a sedative or two. Maybe even a couple of cigarettes. That was what he really wanted, but it wasn't worth permanently disfiguring himself. The sedatives would have turned down the voices, but not turned them off. Maybe he enjoyed them for other reasons. Maybe he was hooked. Now and then the hospital would get concerned and try to cut him off no matter how much he cut his face.

Caspar called him the human meat loaf. He'd offer to apply some ointment to the wounds. At first he'd refuse. Caspar would insist. Eventually he'd comply, and turn one cheek and then the other. After all, Caspar was the alpha male. When the cutting didn't get results, Michael would run away.

Adam said he liked to stay in the hospital because it was an opportunity to build up his bank account. He didn't have to spend any money while he was there, but some government money was deposited to his account anyway. When he'd built up a small sum, he'd elope. Babs said he was institutionalized. The hospital was not merely where he wanted to be (and he desperately wanted to be there). It was where he really was when he was nominally with us.

Come to think of it, his elopements only made sense in the context of the hospital. Eloping was a part of the hospital system. Canada's first psychiatrist (he was called an alienist) wrote that it was the right of every mental patient to elope; it